

Home Group Discussion Guide for Yeast and Numbers

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The following questions are designed to help groups explore the message above by challenging participants to consider how God is wanting them to apply it to their lives.

The questions are a **guide** to help lead discussion.

Please don't feel that all questions need to be asked, instead respond to the needs of your group.

If you have new people in your group, take the opportunity to introduce each other and clarify any expectations that are present in your group (such as confidentiality).

GETTING STARTED

1. What was the main challenge or idea that stood out to you from the message on Sunday?
2. Have you had experience/ been introduced to Jewish Numerology before? In what ways?
 - a. What are some of the dangers of it?

REFLECTING ON THE MESSAGE

Key Scriptures: *Mark 8:1-21*

1. Take the opportunity to read through the 3 events that make up this passage. What do you notice / what stands out?
 - a. Feeding of the 4,000 – Mark 8:1-10
 - b. The Pharisees demand a sign – Mark 8:11-13
 - c. Jesus warns of the Yeast of the Pharisees Mark 8:14-21
2. **When we are hungry we are susceptible** (*easily influenced or likely to be hurt by something*) – Where have you seen this principle at work?
3. Take the opportunity to look at the table for Jewish Numerology over the page – Where have you seen these ideas in Scripture?
4. How does your understanding of the feeding of the 4,000 change when you look at the numbers with these pictures? (*Look over the page*)
 - a. What does it reveal to us about Jesus?

RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE

1. What are some of the things we can consume instead of Jesus in our spiritual hunger?
2. What have you personally been consuming in your spiritual hunger?
 - a. Are they helpful or unhelpful?
3. What does it look like in your life to seek Jesus (the Bread of Life) to satisfy you?
 - a. Does something need to change? What is it?

OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

Our Home Groups are the primary place for pastoral care to occur within the Church. We would encourage you to take the opportunity to pray for each other in this space.





Jewish Numerology

| NUMBER | MEANING/PICTURE REFERENCE |
|--------|--|
| 1 | God |
| 2 | Two Tablets of Moses / the <i>Way</i> (10 Commandments/Covenant) |
| 3 | Community |
| 4 | The Gentiles (Four Corners of the Compass) |
| 5 | Five Books of Moses (Torah / "Kingdom of God" fulfilled) |
| 6 | Sin |
| 7 | Completion / Creation (Seven Days) |
| 10 | Complete Community (7 + 3 also multiples 100, 1000 = 10x10x10) |
| 12 | Twelve Tribes of Israel |
| 40 | A Period of Trial, Judgement or Penitence |

Mark 8:19-21 [with references]

¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves [interpreted correctly/fulfilled Torah] for the five thousand [total community who had already received the five books of Moses], how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"

"Twelve [enough for all the Tribes of Israel]," they replied.

²⁰ "And when I broke the seven loaves [2+5, the covenant + interpreted/fulfilled Torah] for the four thousand [total community of the Gentiles], how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"

They answered, "Seven. [completion]"

²¹ He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

